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Sixth meeting of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
15-17 April 1985

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twentieth session of the Commission/ Eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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LC/NAIROBI

SECOND REVISED NOTE ON THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS ORGANS ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

For technical reasons, this document has not been edited.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifth meeting of the Africa Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) held in Addis Ababa, 14 to 16 May 1984, considered a "Revised Note on the institutional framework governing relations between the various organs established to promote the integration of women in development". 1/ The decisions of the meeting are recorded thus in the report of the meeting: 2/

> "34. While some participants expressed the view that discussion should be deferred in order to have more replies from governments, the consensus was that the subject should be opened for discussion. Several reservations were entered on the grounds that the suggested rules of procedure were at variance with present procedures of some of the subregional committies. The secretariat pointed out that it was the prerogative of each subregion to establish its own rules of procedure.
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> 35. Some participants expressed the wish that members of ARCC and the subregional committees examine more closely the status of their bodies. It was pointed out that the ECA Conference of Ministers would discuss a study on the establishment and proliferation of intergovernmental bodies. Thus the meeting decided to defer further discussion on the subject until the Conference of Ministers had reached the decision.
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> 36. The consensus of the meeting was that the document presented needed restructuring for greater clarity, with material presented in annexes to be incorporated into the main text and diagrams to be added to illustrate the relationships between the various organs. The reference to the frequency of the meetings of the subregional committees would be corrected to read "once every two years". The note in its revised form would be considered by the subregional committee as well as of ARCC at their next meetings."

2. This second revised note is produced in response to these decisions. For purposes of greater clarity the report is divided into four parts: Part I reproduces resolution 4 adopted by the Regional Conference on the implementation of national, regional and world plans of action for the Integration of Women in Development, Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 27 September to 2 October 1977, on the establishment of an African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development. 3/ Part II reproduces ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 365 (XIV) adopted in Rabat, Morocco, 27 March 1979, on the structure

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1/ E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC/84/5, April 1984.

2/ E/ECA/CM.10/33, 17 May 1984, p.8.

3/ E/CN.14/ECO/128/Rev.1; E/CN.14/ATRCW/77/Rpt.SQC/150/84, Nouackchott, 1 November 1977, pp.16-17.

and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development 4/ which amended the Nouakchott resolution referred to in Part I of this report. Part III contains proposed amendments to the Rabat constitution [resolution 365 (XIV)]. The call to members of ARCC to make these amendments to the Rabat Constitution was made pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 3 of the fourth meeting of ARCC held in Addis Ababa, 11-13 April 1983, and endorsed by resolution 13 (IV) adopted by the Ninth Conference of Ministers of the ECA also held in Addis Ababa, 27 April to 2 May 1983. Part IV reproduces draft rules of procedure of subregional committees requested at the third meeting of ARCC held in Douala, Cameroon, 15-17 March 1982. These draft rules are not obligatory. The draft provides subregional committees with guidelines they may, at their discretion, adopt with or without amendments. Part V reproduces the revised note submitted to the fifth meeting of ARCC held in Addis Ababa, 14-16 May 1984, 5/ on the legal status of ARCC. Part VI is a diagramatic summary of the constitutional structure set out in Parts I-V of this report. It was called for in paragraph 36 of the report of the fourth meeting of ARCC, 14-16 May, 1984, and referred to in paragraph 1 of the introduction of this paper.

II. PART I - ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (resolution 4, Nouakchott, Mauritania, 27 September to 20 October 1977)

3. The Regional Conference held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, September/October 1977, after considering various problems concerning the integration of women in development adopted the following resolution on the establishment of ARCC:

Establishment of an African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

The Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women Development

Recalling the provisions of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development adopted for the Region of the Economic Commission for Africa in which reference is made to the establishment of machinery, including an African Regional Standing Committee to co-ordinate the work of the national commissions, advise the women's programme of the Economic Commission for Africa to co-operate with international and regional organizations, especially the All-Africa Women's Conference,

Recalling also the provisions of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year in June 1975 which called upon the United Nations regional commissions to stimulate

4/ E/4979/50.E/CN.14/725, 27 March 1979, pp.188-189.

5/ E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC/84/5, April 1984, pp.1-6.

interest in the plan and to provide governments and non-governmental organizations with the support they need to carry out the plans and recommended that regional commissions establish machinery to do this, possibly by setting up a standing committee of experts from nations in the region,

Aware of the great need for an integrated organizational machinery within the administrative structure of the Economic Commission for Africa which would be responsible for planning and programming from the regional and subregional to the national level,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to consult the Commission's Council of Ministers with a view to taking the necessary action for the establishment, as provided for in the document entitled "Structure and Terms of Reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development", which is annexed to this report:

(i) At the regional level, of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development;

(ii) At the subregional level, committees on the implementation of plans of action for the integration of women in development within the framework of the existing Multinational Programming and Operational Centre based at Lusaka, Yaounde, Gisenyi, Niamey and Tangier.

2. Recommends that the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development, of which the current conference is considered to be the first session, be convened once every three years in order to review progress and make proposals in respect of the activities of the African Training and Research Centre for Women in particular and of the integration of women in development in general and that the reports and recommendations adopted by this conference at each of its sessions be submitted to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa through the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

3. Further recommends that the next session of the Conference should be held, exceptionally, in 1979 in view of the Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1977, in which the regional commissions were invited to consider ways and means of contributing effectively to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980, including the possibility of holding before 1980 regional seminars or meetings on the themes of the Conference.

III. PART II - RABAT AMENDMENTS [resolution 365 (XIV)] on the structure and terms of reference of ARCC

4. In accordance with the provisions of operative paragraph 1 of this resolution the Executive Secretary of ECA submitted the resolution to the ECA Conference of Ministers held in Rabat, Morocco, 28 March, 1979. Thereupon the Conference adopted resolution 365 (XIV) on the structure and terms of reference of the African Regional

Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development. The resolution provided as follows:

"The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Nouakchott Regional Conference on the Implementation of the National, Regional and World Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development,

Having considered the report of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development,

Aware of the need to integrate the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee within the system of the deliberative Organs of the Commission,

1. Takes note of the report and recommendations of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the desirability of amending the constitution and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee;

2. Decides to amend the constitution and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee:

A. By replacing the provisions relating to the composition of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee and its officers with the following:

I. "The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee shall be constituted as follows:

(a) Three members designated by each sub-regional committee (with the right to vote);

(b) The Executive Secretary of ECA (without the right to vote) and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (without the right to vote);

(c) (i) The Pan-African Women's Organization;

(ii) United Nations agencies;

(iii) The representatives of donor agencies;

The above being invited as observers if a particular subject under consideration is of interest to them;

II. The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of:

- a chairman
- a first and a second vice-chairman, and
- two rapporteurs.

III. The terms of office of the Bureau will be two years. The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee will meet once a year when convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau".

B. The African Training and Research Centre for Women will act as secretariat of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee.

C. The rules of procedure of the Committee shall be the same as those of the Economic Commission for Africa.

D. By replacing the terms of reference of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee with the following:

"1. To harmonize and co-ordinate the subregional programmes approved within the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres;

2. To evaluate and implement work programmes, bearing in mind the availability of resources and to oversee the implementation of work programmes;

3. To organize the exchange of information and experiences;

4. To participate in the activities and meetings of the United Nations and other relevant organizations;

5. To mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes agreed at the regional and subregional levels;

6. To review and evaluate activities carried out in the region in the framework of programmes for the advancement of women;

7. To convene every three years, the African Regional Conference on Women and Development;

8. To report to the deliberative organs of the Economic Commission for Africa on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregion (Committee of Officials and Councils of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres)".

5. Since the terms of reference of the ARCC were not amended by the Rabat meeting, they remained as adopted at Nouakchott. They are as follows:

Terms of reference of the Subregional Committees:

The subregional committees shall:

(a) Receive and review proposals submitted by the national commissions on women and development or by similar bodies responsible for ensuring the integration of women in all sectors of national development, with a view to obtaining technical and financial assistance for the implementation of projects;

(b) Disseminate information and deal with matters relating to mass communications;

(c) Exchange knowledge and experience through workshops, seminars, study tours and other types of technical meetings;

(d) Ensure that subregional development programmes provide fully for the integration of women in development;

(e) Initiate country studies and assist national institutions to identify the types of information needed for a proper understanding of the situation of women and the factors facilitating or limiting the advancement of women;

(f) Assist in the design and implementation of surveys carried out for the purpose of collecting statistical data and other information;

(g) Provide clearing-house facilities for the exchange of information apt to promote co-ordination and mutual support among programmes designed to promote the advancement of women at various levels and for the sharing of relevant experience among the countries of the subregion.

IV. PART III - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY MEMBERS OF ARCC TO THE RABAT CONSTITUTION OF 1979 [resolution 365 (XIV)]

6. As stated earlier in this report, amendments to resolution 365 (XIV) was called for by resolution 3 (IV) of the fourth meeting of ARCC held in Addis Ababa, 11 to 13 April 1983 and confirmed by resolution 472 (XVIII) on women in development adopted by the ninth Conference of Ministers of the ECA also held in Addis Ababa, 27 April to 2 May 1983. Only some members of ARCC have proposed amendements. Their proposals are that the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee shall be constituted as follows:

1. Composition of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC)

Resolution 365 (XIV) of the fourteenth session of the Commission and fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, held in Rabat, Morocco, in March 1969, amended the Constitution and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the ARCC") adopted in Nouakchott, Mauritania, 27 September to 2 October 1977. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 3 of the fourth meeting of ARCC held in Addis Ababa, 11 to 13 April 1983 concerning the institutional framework governing relations between organs established to promote the integration of women in development and in conformity with resolution 472 (XVIII) on "Women in Development" adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa held in Addis Ababa from 27 April to 2 May 1983, some member States of the ARCC have proposed that the Constitution of ARCC be amended as shown in the paragraphs that follow. That is to say: the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee shall be constituted as follows:

(a) Three members designated by each subregional committee (with the right to vote).

Proposed amendments and comments on (a) above:

- 2(a) the Bureau of each subregional committee on the Integration of Women in Development (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Rapporteur) ;

- 2(b) three members of the Bureau of the subregional committee (with the right to vote)(Congo);

- countries that are absent from meetings give authority to the President of their SRC (Congo);

- new 2(c) : a representative of each country of the subregion, as observer, without the right to vote, and at their expense whenever the agenda deals with legal questions (Congo);

- and the country absent from the meeting should authorize the current chairperson of the subregional committee to act on its behalf (Gabon);

- a representative of each country of the subregion to attend as observer and bear all expenses, without the right to vote, each time there is a legal problem on the agenda (Gabon).

(b) The Executive Secretary of ECA (without the right to vote), and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (without the right to vote).

Proposed amendments and comments:

(c) (i) The Pan-African Women's Organization;

(ii) United Nations Agencies;

(iii) The representatives of donor agencies.

The above being invited as observers if a particular subject under consideration is of interest to them.

Proposed amendments and comments on (c) above:

- If members in 2(b) and 2(c) have no right to vote, who has the right to vote? Clarify (Zaire).

- PAWO should be a full fledged member of ARCC in view of its political status in the continent (Madagascar).

2. Organs and Procedure of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC)

Resolution 365 (XIV) referred to in Part II of this paper provides inter alia that:

(a) the ARCC shall elect the following:

- chairperson;
- a first and second vice-chairperson;
- two rapporteurs.

(b) the term of office of the Bureau shall be two years;

(c) the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee will meet once a year when convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau.

Proposed amendments and comments

- ARCC meetings are held once a year convened by the Executive Secretary after consulting the Bureau. Nowhere is mentioned the designation of the Executive Secretary and the criteria of his designation. The designation of the Executive Secretary should be mentioned in this paragraph, otherwise ARCC should be convened at the request of its President or two third of its members.
- There seems to be some confusion (Chad).
- The paragraph should read: The ARCC shall meet once a year convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau and at least one week prior to the opening of the ECA Conference of Ministers (Congo).
- Paragraph should read: The ARCC meets at least once a year convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau. It can also meet at least one week prior to the ECA Conference of Ministers (Zaire).
- Paragraph should read: ARCC shall meet once a year when convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau and at least a week before the opening of the ECA Conference of Ministers (Gabon).

(b) The ARCC may, in consultation with ECA, establish such sub-committees as it may deem necessary for the efficient implementation of its activities.

- If there are other sub-committees like the subregional committees we do not see their usefulness. One should talk about "working sub-committees" (Gabon).

3. Terms of Reference of the ARCC

Commission resolution 365 (XIV) referred to in Part II of this paper further amended the constitution and terms of reference of the ARCC adopted in Nouakchott in 1977 by providing that the terms of reference of the ARCC shall be, inter alia:

(a) To evaluate and implement work programmes, bearing in mind the availability of resources and to oversee the implementation of work programmes.

Proposed amendments and comments

- -"To evaluate and oversee the implementation of work programmes bearing in mind the availability of resources". (Ghana)

- -"It is important to leave the implementation of work programmes to individual member countries and for MULPOC Women's programme co-ordinators to co-ordinate. It is unrealistic to expect that members of ARCC could implement work programmes. ARCC should be largely an advisory and supervisory body". (Ghana)

- -"ARCC cannot discharge their function without resources. It seems advisable that ARCC becomes a subsidiary organ of the ECA. Otherwise we have to rethink its existence. The words execute and supervise should be left to SRC and the co-ordination of women's programmes. Therefore (b) should read as follows:
  -"Evaluate the work programme based on its own resources and those made available by ECA. All funding schemes as well as ATRCW must be within its own work programmes". (Gabon)

  -"We would request that a new paragraph be added to the text: It would deal with ARCC's sources of financing. It would seem that ARCC needs to become a subsidiary body of ECA to be able to survive; otherwise its existence would have to be reconsidered. We would like the terms "implement" and "oversee" to be left to the Sub-regional Committees and the Co-ordinator of Women's Programme. The sub-paragraph would read: "to evaluate the work programmes in the light of availability of its own resources and within the framework of appropriate assistance from ECA; any source of financing including ATRCW would have to be tailored to ARCC's work programme".(Gabon)

  -"Can ARCC implement and oversee the implementation of work programmes without resources"? (Gabon)

(b) To mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes agreed at the regional and subregional levels.

Proposed amendments and comments

- (e) should read: "look for and not mobilize" (Gabon).

(c) To convene every three years the Africa Regional Conference on Women in Development.

Proposed amendments and comments

- "The Regional Conference is to be held every three years, this is too long. Chad suggests every two years, as new countries like Chad need to be familiarized in the work of ECA and MULPOCs" (Chad);

- "Delete 'et de' and put a semi-colon after 'developpement'"

(d) To report to the deliberative organs of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregion (Committee of Officials and Council of Ministers of the MULPOC).

Proposed amendments and comments

- (2) New item to read: "In addition to its activities the ARCC can participate in meetings organized by ATRCW at the invitation of the latter" (Gabon);

- Introduction: "Delete the word 'sous' before 'comités' in the title and point 1.2 to read: 'comites sous régionaux' as in point 3 (Zaire);

4. Rules of procedure of Subregional Committees

The rules of procedure of the subregional committees were submitted to the third meeting of the ARCC held in Douala, Cameroon, from 15-[illegible] March 1982 for consideration but were not finalized. Where these rules of procedure are silent, the provisions of the ECA Rules of Procedure shall apply.

Proposed amendments and comments

- Paragraph 6: Rules of procedure of subregional committees should be chapter II (Gabon);

- Paragraph 5 should be the first paragraph of a second big chapter without change except (h) which would be clarified during sessions of ARCC (Gabon);

- Procedures of subregional committees should be discussed during sessions before drafting (Gabon);

- Paragraph 6 becomes paragraph 2 of chapter II. Delete "They are appended to this paper as Annex I" (Gabon);

- For better understanding of the text it would be preferable to have just one text and avoid referring the reader to annexes (Gabon).

5. National machineries

The Nouakchott Constitution, 27 September to 2 October 1977, as amended by Commission resolution 365 (XIV) referred to in Part II of this paper,

makes no reference to the composition and functions of national machineries concerned with the integration of women in economic and social development. Such machineries are left to each member State to establish in accordance with its own laws and practices.

Proposed amendments and comments

- Provision should be made in the Constitution for national machineries (Gabon).

V. PART IV - DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR SUBREGIONAL COMMITTEES

7. The preparation of these rules was asked for at the third meeting of ARCC held in Douala, Cameroon, from 15 to 17 March 1982. They were considered inconclusively at the fourth meeting of ARCC referred to earlier in this paper. At the fifth meeting of ARCC held in Addis Ababa, from 14 to 16 May 1984, the meeting entered "several reservations on them on the grounds that the draft rules of procedure were at variance with present procedures of some of the subregional committees. The secretariat pointed out that it was the "prerogative of each subregion to establish its own rules of procedure". 6/ The draft rules are reproduced herein only as guidleines for those subregional committees that may wish to use them as precedents to be adapted as appropriate:

DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE

SESSION

Rule 1

(a) A Subregional Committee shall meet in ordinary session once every two years immediately preceding the meeting of officials of each MULPOC. The Committee may also meet in extraordinary session if the Chairperson or the majority of member States ask for such meeting. An extraordinary meeting of the Committee shall only consider the question or questions for which the meeting has been convened;

(b) The Subregional Committee shall elect a Bureau consisting of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur. The Bureau of the Subregional Committee shall meet at least once a year;

(c) Representatives of a Committee may, upon invitation, attend meetings or organs of a MULPOC operating in its subregion and participate in such meeting in accordance with rules of procedure of such MULPOC;

6/ E/ECA/CM.10/33, 17 May 1984, p.8, paragraph 34.

AGENDA

Rule 2

(a) The Co-ordinator of the Women's Programme in each MULPOC shall prepare in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee the draft agenda of each meeting;

(b) The provisional agenda shall be communicated to the member States of a subregional committee at least one month before the opening of each meeting;

(c) The office of the Chairperson of a subregional committee shall rotate among the member States;

(d) Subject to such directives as a subregional committee may give, the Chairperson of a Subregional Committee shall be responsible for submitting to donor countries or institutions projects of the Subregional Committee for financing by such countries or institutions;

(e) Subject to consultations with the Director of each MULPOC and subject also to the resources of each Committee, the Co-ordinator of each Committee shall act as Secretary of the Committee;

(f) The working language of a subregional committee shall be determined by each subregional committee.

QUORUM

Rule 3

(a) A quorum for the meeting of a subregional committee shall consist of a simple majority of its member States. The quorum during the meeting shall consist of a majority of members present;

(b) With the agreement of the Bureau, a Chairperson of a Subregional Committee may invite any person or body to participate at meetings of a subregional committee as an observer;

(c) A subregional committee may make such other rules of procedure as it may deem necessary. Where no rules exist to cover a particular issue the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa shall mutatis mutandis apply.

VOTING

Rule 4

Each member State of a Committee may, irrespective of the number of representatives it has on the Committee, exercise only one vote on any matter before the Committee.

AMENDMENTS

Rule 5

A Committee may, in exceptional circumstances, suspend the operation of these rules of procedure or amend them provided that at least two-thirds of the members present and voting so decide.

Proposed amendments and comments

- Rule No. 2, para. (d) should read: "subject to such directives as a subregional committee shall be responsible for submitting to donor countries ..." (Ghana),

- The Council is of the opinion that the Co-ordinator of the Women's programme as the administrative organ of the subregional committees should do this after she had cleared it with the Chairman of the subregional committee (if submitted before the general meeting) (Ghana);

- It is obvious that the Women's Programme Co-ordinator being a full-time officer is more in the know of these things and has links with donors. Besides, there is the danger that politics may play a part in determining which projects are submitted to the donors, whether projects are submitted at all or whether some countries projects are overlooked. By making the Co-ordinator responsible, we hopefully place it above political biases and pettiness (Ghana).

Conclusion

The Ghana National Council on Women and Development sees this document as an attempt to streamline the structural arrangements for the advancement of women for effective work output and a better working environment. This attempt is laudable. Therefore, it is lamentable that the document does not look further at the role and functions of the Women's Programme Co-ordinator who finds herself in an administrative web; having been appointed by the ATRCW and her finances partly controlled by ATRCW and the MULPOC, she answers to three organs - ATRCW, MULPOC and the subregional committees, not to mention ARCC. The confusions that can arise out of this state of affairs should be foreseen and eliminated by clearly defining the roles and duties of the sub-regions, the bureau of the subregional committees and the bureau of the ARCC as well as the ARCC itself. In this connection, the Ghana National Council on Women and Development would like to suggest that ARCC and subregional committee limit themselves to policy and advisory roles and leave implementation and administrative roles to the Women's Programme Co-ordinator and individual national machineries.

We wish the various structures all the best in their various roles and duties" (Ghana).

- In the rules of procedure the mandate of the Bureau of the subregional committee should be stipulated since member States take turns to become Chairperson. It should be stated that the other members of the Bureau are appointed or elected (Gabon) ;

- Rule 2(b): The agenda shall be communicated at least two months before the opening of each meeting because some States have difficulties in communicating with headquarters. Because of irregularities in flights, Chad always receives its documents one month late so that sometimes it does not even have information on the agenda of meetings. To enable us to better study the documents in the future, kindly send the reports of the meetings of ARCC as well as any other documents on mechanisms for the integration of women in development (Chad);

- Rule 1: What is the term (duration) and rules of procedure of the Bureau of subregional committee since the presidency is to be by rotation? Are the other members elected or designated? (Chad),

- Rule 2(b): should receive agenda two months in advance because of communications difficulties. Flight irregularities result in Chad receiving documents one month late (Chad).

6. Other observations of a general nature submitted by the member States/ subregional committees

- Chad started participating officially in subregional meetings organized by the United Nations system from 1 June 1982; that is why the country has so little information on some of the United Nations bodies responsible for promoting the integration of women in development. For instance, Chad has no document whatsoever on ARCC. We would therefore like to request the Director of ATRCW to send us complete documentation on the various bodies on the integration of women in development (Chad),

- The representative of the Pan-African Women's Organization should sit on ARCC as a member and not as an observer given the political position of that organization in the African continent (Madagascar);

- Status of ARCC in ECA meetings: ARCC's obligations shall vary according to the meetings (subregional or regional - ECA Conference of Ministers);

- At the subregional level ARCC shall report to the organs of ECA on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregions. At the ECA level, ARCC is invited but not required to present its activities and programmes to the ECA Conference of Ministers for its approval. There seems to be some contradiction between those two paragraphs. It would be preferable for ARCC to submit its activities to a higher body especially since it has to work in close

collaboration with ECA. The bulk of its activities are carried out in conjunction with ATRCW which is the administrative body of ECA (Madagascar);

- In the introduction the political role of ARCC is emphasized. It should be recommended to ECA member States to include members of the Bureau of ARCC delegation to ECA meetings. If ARCC remains a subsidiary organ, it will contribute to its death. ATRCW is technical, ARCC is political. There should not be any conflict (Congo);

- It is suggested that a chart with commentary, describing the different structures, should be attached (Congo);

- The term of ARCC should be clarified (Congo);

- Congo suggests that para. 5 should be used as backgound to the rules of procedure. In Rule 1 a new (c) is suggested: "The term of the Bureau of SRC should be two years and renewable" (Congo);

- Gabon suggests that the document on institutional framework should have three chapters dealing with ARCC, SRC and ATRCW (Gabon);

- Para.1 (Institutional framework): The word "mandate" used in document ARCC/ATRCW/82/WD.16 covers two different aspects in the same text. It means "statute" in Zairean legislation or "Constitution" in other parts of the text on the one hand and the mission of ARCC organs on the other hand as it is the case in para. 3(b) (Zaire);

- Para.5(f) (Institutional framework): Replace "et" at the end of the sentence by a semi-colon (Zaire);

- Para.5(g) (Institutional framework): Same as (f) above and correct typing error "typiques" (Zaire);

- We are pleased to advise that we have studied document ATRCW/ARCC/83/WD.8 in connection with the above-named (i.e., note on institutional framework, etc.) and have made the observations that it is a very clear analysis of the institutional framework covering relations between the various organs established to promote the integration of women in development. It gives a clear outline of the mandate of those structures, the working relationships between them and the procedures to be followed. We therefore have no reservations in concurring with the decision as outlined (Zimbabwe);

- Morocco agrees with the contents of document ATRCW/ARCC/83/WD.8 (see the letter from Morocco dated 24 April 1983).

VI. PART V - LEGAL STATUS OF ARCC

8. The third meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development held in Douala, Cameroon, from 15 to 17 March 1982, considered two documents, one entitled a "Clarifying note on the institutional framework governing relations among the various bodies established to promote the integration of women in development" (document ARCC/ATRCW/82/WD.3) and the other entitled "Provisional terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Subregional Committees for the Integration of Women in Development" (document ATRCW/ARCC/82/WD.16), and decided that "the two documents should be merged into one which would define the institutional framework for subregional and regional structures for women's integration in development. The secretariat was requested to include in the document to be produced "the respective mandates of those structures, to define the working relations between them and to indicate the procedures to be followed". The fourth meeting of ARCC held in Addis Ababa from 11 to 13 April 1983 considered the document and resolved that the national machineries be invited to submit their views and comments to ECA on the document not later than 31 October 1983, and that thereafter ECA should present a revised version of the document having regard to the comments received. On 1 June 1983, the secretariat sent copies of document ATRCW/ARCC/83/WD.8 entitled "Note on the institutional framework governing relation between the various organs established to promote the integration of women in development" to all the members of the ARCC. The member States were requested to submit their comments on the document not later than 31 October 1983 for inclusion in a revised draft document on the institutional framework governing relations between all bodies concerned with the integration of women in development. Replies or comments were received only from Chad, the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Zaire and Zimbabwe. The views of these countries as regards amendments to the Constitution and terms of reference of ARCC and the Subregional Committees can be read in Parts III and IV of this paper.

9. The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) is a regional African intergovernmental committee constituted by resolution 365 (XIV) of the ECA Conference of Ministers. Out of its 17 members, the 15 voting members - three each designated by each Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development - are representatives of African Governments. ARCC, by reason of its functions, relationship with the ECA secretariat and the Commission and its role within the system "of the deliberative organs of the Commission", 8/ is also to that extent a subsidiary organ of the Commission.

10. The Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development which requested the establishment of ARCC, was held at Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 27 September to

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7/ The two non-voting members are the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of OAU.

8/ Commission resolution 365 (XIV), third preambular paragraph.

2 October 1977. This Regional Conference was held, inter alia, for the purpose of implementing the World Plan of Action for the implementation of the objectives of the International Women's Year and General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) with respect to the establishment of the required national, subregional and regional machinery for the integration of women in development.

11. Resolution 4 which was adopted by the Regional Conference and entitled "Establishment of an African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development", requested the Executive Secretary to consult the ECA Conference of Ministers, "with a view to taking the necessary action for the establishment" 9/ of ARCC in accordance with the "structure and terms of reference of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development" 10/ annexed to the report of the Regional Conference.

12. In response to the request contained in resolution 4, the Executive Secretary convened at Rabat from 14 to 17 March 1979 the inaugural session of ARCC, consisting of subregional representatives of African Governments, so as to enable it to consider finally the Constitution and terms of reference of ARCC as proposed by the Regional Conference and to suggest any necessary amendments before it was submitted for promulgation by the fifth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. The report of the inaugural session of ARCC containing amendments to the Constitution and terms of reference of ARCC was submitted to the fifth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers which promulgated the Constitution and terms of reference of ARCC as amended in its resolution 365 (XIV).

13. By virtue of the manner of its establishment by representatives of African Governments as well as its composition, ARCC is an African intergovernmental organization even though it does not have its own independent source of finance, administrative or technical capability or institutions.

14. In the third preambular paragraph of resolution 365 (XIV), the Conference of Ministers underscored the organic relationship of ARCC to the Commission, by reiterating that it was:

> "Aware of the need to integrate the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee within the system of the deliberative organs of the Commission".

15. In accordance with the Constitution and terms of reference of ARCC as amended and promulgated by resolution 365 (XIV), meetings of ARCC are to be convened by the Executive Secretary; the African Training and Research Centre for Women in the Commission (ATRCW) is to act as the secretariat of ARCC; the rules of procedure of ARCC are also to be the same as those of the Commission.

9/ Report of the Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development (document E/CN.14/ECO/128/Rev.1; E/CN.14/ATRCW/11 Rpt.SOC/150/84, resolution 4, p.16.

10/ Ibid.

16. The functions of ARCC also illustrate its close working relationship with the Commission. ARCC is to:

(a) Harmonize and co-ordinate the subregional programmes concerning women in development as approved by the MULPOCs;

(b) Mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes agreed at the regional and subregional levels;

(c) Participate in the activities and meetings of the United Nations (including the Commission) and other relevant organizations.

17. Commission resolution 363 (XIV) further reinforces this position by deciding that:

> "the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for Women in Development should participate in the meetings of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole and the Conference of the Commission";
>
> - review and evaluate activities carried out in the region in the framework of programmes for the advancement of women;
>
> - report to the deliberative organs of the Commission on activities and programmes carried out in the subregions.

18. These attributes, apart from the fact that the constitution establishing ARCC was promulgated by the ECA Conference of Ministers, clearly show that an African intergovernmental organization though it may be, ARCC is also at the same time a subsidiary organ of the Commission for the purposes and to the extent indicated above.

19. The subregional committees, on the other hand, were established by subregional meetings convened by the Executive Secretary in pursuance of the same resolution 4 adopted by the Regional Conference and attended by representatives of governments within the subregions. The subregional meetings, established the subregional committees composed of representatives of the various national machineries for the integration of women in development within the various subregions and electing their own officials, are by virtue of the manner of their establishment and composition, subregional intergovernmental organizations. Their establishment has also been endorsed by the policy-making organs of the MULPOCs concerned. 11/ Their functions, deriving from the purpose of their establishment, are namely, to act as:

> "At the subregional level, committees on the implementation of plans of action for the integration of women in development within the

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11/ See for instance the report of the Second Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC) for West Africa, Bamako, 22-23 February, 1979, (document E/CN.14/100), Annex II, p.8 et seq.

framework of the existing Multinational Programming and Operational Centres based at Lusaka, Yaounde, Gisenyi, Niamey and Tangiers" 12/

as contained in the Report of the Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development 13/ and, include ensuring that subregional development programmes provide fully for the integration of women in development, the dissemination and exchange of relevant information within the subregion through workshops, seminars etc., the initiation of studies on the proper understanding of the situation of women in development and the provision of clearing house facilities with respect to programmes designed to promote the advancement of women. For these purposes, the subregional committees should be represented by their office bearers in the deliberations of the policy-making organs of the MULPOCs so as to ensure the inclusion of components dealing with women in development in the work programmes of the MULPOCs and to review their implementation. The work programmes of the MULPOCs are integrated into the work programme of ECA by the ECA Conference of Ministers. ECA has posted staff members as women's programme co-ordinators to each of the MULPOCs, inter alia, to assist the subregional committees.

20. Thus, although the subregional committees are intergovernmental institutions, even though they may lack independent financial and administrative capabilities or institutions, they are by virtue of the purpose and method of their establishment and their functions described above with respect to the MULPOCs and their policy-making organs, which are in themselves subregional subordinate organs of the Commission, also organs of the MULPOCs to the extent of such functions and for that purpose, should be represented in that capacity in the meetings of the policy-making organs of the MULPOCs. In support of this proposition, Commission resolution 363 (XIV):

> "Calls on the Bureaux of the subregional committees for the integration of women in development to attend the meetings of the committees of officials and Councils of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational (sic) Centres".

21 Attention should also be drawn to other factors which also illustrate the role which the subregional committees are to play within the deliberative system of the organs of the Commission. Resolution 3, adopted by the inaugural meeting of the Subregional Committee on the Integration of Women in Development held in Niamey, from 30 November to 2 December 1978, sums up the position in its first preambular paragraphs as follows:

12/ Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Subregional Committee on the Integration of Women in Development, 30 November to 2 December 1978 (document ECA/MULPOC/NIAMEY/18) p.9.

13/ Report of the Inaugural Session of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, Rabat, 14 to 17 March 1974 (document E/CN.14/716), paragraph 36.

"Considering that the subregional committee on the integration of women in development is an integral part of the Niamey-based MULPOC". 14/

22. The inaugural session of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development also had this to say on the issue:

"Subregional committees had been recommended at the Nouakchott Regional Conference and were an integral part of the MULPOC. They had been created to ensure that women's affairs were taken care of within the MULPOC programme of work and in national development plans. They were not executing agencies but they could initiate, promote and provide advice regarding women's programmes in the subregion". 15/

23. Whilst the subregional committees as such are not established as subsidiary organs of ARCC, membership of ARCC is derived from the subregional committees. Secondly, the functions of ARCC are, inter alia, to harmonize and co-ordinate the subregional programmes of the MULPOCs on women in development and to report to the Commission on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregion. ARCC, which as has been shown, is, at the regional level, a subsidiary organ of the Commission, and is thus able to exercise supervisory functions over the work of the subregional committees. This is another link which completes the pyramidal structure with national machineries forming its base, then proceeding upwards to the subregional committees composed of representatives of national machineries within a subregion, to deal with the problem of women in development at the subregional level, and finally to the apex, namely ARCC, composed of representatives of the subregional committees and which act at the regional level. This pyramidal structure thus ensures the incorporation of women's issues within the development programme as well as the deliberative system of the Commission.

24. The financial and administrative responsibilities of the Commission to ARCC and the subregional committees are, however, determined in the manner described above, namely to the extent that ECA and ATRCW and the Women's Programme Co-ordinators respectively act as secretariat to the former and assist the latter in matters related thereto.

25. The third meeting of the West African Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, held from 21 to 26 March 1983, at Cotonou, had raised the issue of establishing the West African Subregional Committee as an integral organization with its own secretariat and finances provided by contributions from the governments represented on the subregional committee. This matter was referred to the fourth meeting of ARCC since it was a matter that could affect all the other subregional committees.

14/ Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Subregional Committee on the Integration of Women in Development, 30 November to 2 December 1978 (document ECA/MULPOC/NIAMEY/18) p.9.

15/ Report of the Inaugural Session of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, Rabat, 14 to 17 March 1974 (document E/CN.14/716) para 36.

26. In order to strengthen the subregional committees in the manner suggested by the third meeting of the West African Subregional Committee, a meeting of plenipotentiaries of governments from the subregions would require to be called in order to agree on the establishment, inter alia, of the required institutions of the subregional committees as well as the financial obligations which would devolve on governments in the operation of the subregional committees and their institutions.

27. In this regard attention must be drawn to resolution 477 (XVIII) adopted by the ninth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers as amended by resolution 519 (XIX) adopted by the tenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers which established an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of representatives of 10 member States of the Commission to evaluate all ECA- and OAU-sponsored institutions as to their relevance and ways in which their activities would be co-ordinated and harmonized and to make proposals to the forthcoming eleventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. The Ad Hoc Committee was also required to take account of paragraphs of the Lagos Plan of Action in which the Second Extraordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of OAU decided that:

> "Since, however, the vital role of an appropriate number of multinational institutions to the economic and social development of Africa cannot be gainsaid, steps must be taken to ensure that new multinational institutions are established only after careful considerations of their necessity, objectives and activities and where there is clear indication that they will obtain the political as well as the financial support of member States. As regards existing multinational institutions, they should also receive the fullest political and financial support of member States. It is therefore proposed that the following guidelines should be followed for the strengthening of existing multinational institutions and the establishment of new ones:
>
> (i) the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of OAU, in co-operation with UNDP and major donors, should undertake an assessment of the objectives and operations of the various existing multinational institutions established under the aegis of the Commission with a view to making proposals as to their continued relevance and effectiveness and to advise on ways and means by which they may be better rationalized, co-ordinated or harmonized, or what new multinational institutions shall be required."

28. Under these circumstances it is proposed, first, that the government representatives on subregional committees should first obtain their government's declaration of intent and commitment to undertake financially and politically the strengthening of their subregional committees in the manner that such representatives may wish. Subsequent steps may then be taken in the light of the decisions that the eleventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers may take with respect to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

VII. PART VI - DIAGRAMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE LINKAGES BETWEEN THE VARIOUS ORGANS OF INSTITUTIONS ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

29. This diagram was called for in paragraph 36 of the report of the fifth meeting of ARCC and referred to in the introduction to this report.

ECA WOMEN'S PROGRAMME — STRUCTURAL RELATIONSHIPS CHART